

## Claims

1. An e-mail handling method, comprising the step of:  
5 storing an e-mail in a compartment of a compartmented operating system.
2. The method of claim 1, comprising storing an e-mail in a compartment with other e-mails.
- 10 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the e-mail is stored in an individual compartment.
4. The method of claim 1, comprising assessing the  
15 e-mail according to a security policy.
5. The method of claim 1, comprising determining a security status for the e-mail.
- 20 6. The method of claim 5, comprising applying a security tag to the e-mail denoting the security status.
7. The method of claim 1, comprising determining a security status for the e-mail, and storing the e-mail  
25 either in an individual compartment or in a compartment for containing plural e-mails, according to the determined security status.
8. An e-mail handling apparatus, comprising:  
30 an e-mail agent for storing an e-mail in a compartment of a compartmented operating system.

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9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the e-mail agent stores the e-mail in a compartment with other e-mails.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the e-mail agent  
5 stores the e-mail in an individual compartment.

11. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the e-mail agent applies a security tag denoting a security status of the e-mail.

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12. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the e-mail agent determines a security status of the e-mail and stores the e-mail either in a compartment with other e-mails or in an individual compartment according to the determined  
15 security status.

13. An e-mail handling method comprising the steps of:

(a) navigating to an e-mail stored in a compartment;  
20 and

(b) opening the e-mail within the compartment.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step (a)  
25 comprises navigating to the stored e-mail using a first browser.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the first browser is provided outside the compartment where the e-mail is  
30 stored.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the first browser is able only to navigate to e-mails across compartments.

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17. The method of claim 13, wherein the step (b) comprises providing a second browser within the compartment where the e-mail is stored.

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18. The method of claim 17, wherein the second browser is given permission to read an e-mail within the compartment.

10 19. The method of claim 13, comprising the step (c) of applying a security status to the stored e-mail.

20. The method of claim 19, comprising the step (d) of moving the e-mail to a new compartment consistent with the  
15 applied security status.

21. An e-mail handling apparatus, comprising:

a compartment of a compartmented operating system for  
20 storing an e-mail;

a first browser provided outside the compartment for navigating to the e-mail; and

25 a second browser provided within the compartment for accessing the e-mail.

22. The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 21, wherein the second browser is spawned by the first browser in  
30 response to navigating to the stored e-mail.

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23. The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 21, wherein the first browser is only able to navigate to e-mails across compartments.

5 24. The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 21, wherein the second browser is only able to access the e-mail within the compartment.

10 25. The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 24, wherein the second browser is denied access outside the compartment.

26. The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 21, wherein the e-mail is one of many stored in the same compartment.

15 27. The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 21, wherein the e-mail is one of many each stored in an individual compartment.

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